

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to appropriately reflect that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/793,645, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/428,420, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/955,058, filed October 21, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/669,049 filed June 24, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/624,269, filed March 29, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/438,844, filed May 11, 1995, now U.S. Patent 5,504,609, issued April 2, 1996.

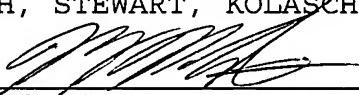
Entry of this preliminary amendment and examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
Michael R. Cammarata